



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. BOX 42560 ♦ Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 ♦ (360) 902-1800

May 29, 2001

TO: State Agriculture and Health Department Dairy Program Administrators

FROM: National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipment (NCIMS) Dairy HACCP Committee.

SUBJECT: NCIMS DAIRY HACCP PILOT PROGRAM PHASE II EXPANSION

The NCIMS Dairy HACCP Committee invites your State Dairy Program and Dairy Industry to submit an application of interest for the NCIMS Dairy HACCP Pilot Program Phase II Expansion for Grade "A" dairy plants.

The NCIMS Dairy HACCP Pilot Program was developed by this committee and accepted at the May 1999 NCIMS conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Between late 1999 and the present, six Grade A plants and six states have participated in the NCIMS HACCP Pilot Program (Phase I). In May 2001, the NCIMS Conference extended the HACCP Pilot Program for two additional years (Phase II) and expanded it to include all interested Grade A plants and states.

The voluntary HACCP pilot program is intended to provide information that the NCIMS Dairy HACCP Committee will use in evaluating HACCP as a voluntary alternative program to the existing PMO-based plant sanitation program. This information will be used to provide progress reports to the NCIMS Conference and evaluate the effectiveness of the program. If you should need a copy of the pilot program please contact your NCIMS State voting delegate or NCIMS HACCP Committee member (see attached list) or visit the Washington State Department of Agriculture Food Safety Program website at: agr.wa.gov/fsah/food/FS-HP.htm.

The NCIMS Dairy HACCP Committee will review applications from States and Dairy Plants with a goal of ensuring that the participants are committed and have the resources to contribute to the development of a voluntary, alternative, HACCP-based regulatory program to the existing NCIMS program. The HACCP Committee anticipates that this program will provide state regulatory and rating programs, the dairy industry, FDA and the NCIMS Conference with extremely useful practical experience on the HACCP food safety system.

The potential benefits of participating in the Phase II pilot program include: (1) An opportunity to work with the NCIMS Dairy HACCP Committee to determine how best to apply HACCP in a particular dairy plant, (2) The chance to engage in a national informational gathering program using scientific principles, and (3) An opportunity to contribute to the development of sound regulatory policy based on HACCP principles.

After selection, the Phase II pilot program participants will be trained together at NCIMS HACCP Pilot Training courses. The cost of attending this training program (3 - 4 days) will be the responsibility of the participants, although some alternate funds may be available for state regulators. The pilot program training for the Phase II participants is targeted for early fall 2001.

The selection of states and firms for the Phase II pilot project will begin in August 2001. All parties selected will be expected to fully participate in the pilot program through May 2003. Full acceptance or extension of the pilot program will be determined at the 2003 NCIMS Conference.

The HACCP committee is working on the implementation details of this Phase II pilot project. The committee will continue to use the Technical Resource Team from Phase I to provide interpretive guidance to state, FDA and industry HACCP pilot participants. In addition, the Evaluation Team will also be used to gather information and conduct on-site visits at pilot plant sites for the purpose of developing progress reports for the HACCP committee, which will serve as the basis of future recommendations.

A set of application forms is attached. We hope that you will seriously consider this opportunity to participate in Phase II of the NCIMS HACCP Pilot Program. All applications including both the state and plant portions need to be completed and returned to **Claudia Coles by Monday, August 6th 2001**. There may be additional application opportunities after this August 2001 deadline, but the HACCP Committee has not finalized any further details at this time.

For Application Questions, please contact:

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| Claudia Coles, Chair - NCIMS HACCP Committee Washington State Department of Agriculture | (360) 902-1905 |
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| Sue Esser, - NCIMS HACCP Committee Michigan Department of Agriculture | (517) 373-1086 |
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| John Beers - NCIMS HACCP Committee Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services | (804) 786-8899 |
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NCIMS DAIRY HACCP PILOT PROGRAM PHASE II APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All of the following application attachments are required to be completed and submitted for consideration of participation in the Phase II HACCP Pilot Program (Attachment A-1 may be optional). Regulatory programs are encouraged to contact dairy firms located in their states that may wish to participate in this voluntary NCIMS HACCP Pilot Program.

1. Attachment A:

- **To be completed by the state regulatory program responsible for licensing or permitting and routine inspection of the participating dairy plant.**

2. Attachment A-1:

- **To be completed if the state-rating program is separate from the state regulatory program.**

3. Attachment B:

- **To be completed by the dairy plant and submitted to the state regulatory agency for forwarding to the NCIMS HACCP Committee.**

If a state has more than one firm that wishes to be considered in this selection process, application information must be completed for each firm. It is acceptable to photocopy the application attachments.

All participants will be contacted after the selection process with further information and details concerning the pilot program.

Additional information concerning the NCIMS DAIRY HACCP PILOT PROGRAM is available through NCIMS HACCP Committee members (see attached list) or:

Claudia Coles, Chair - NCIMS HACCP Committee (360) 902-1905
Washington State Department of Agriculture

Sue Esser, - NCIMS HACCP Committee (517) 373-1086
Michigan Department of Agriculture

John Beers - NCIMS HACCP Committee (804) 786-8899
Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Mail or Fax completed application forms to:

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Attention: Claudia Coles, Food Safety Program
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560
Phone 360/902-1905 Fax 360/902-2087

Application Deadline: - Monday, August 6, 2001